

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure, with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention pertains to novel insecticidal compounds derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains. ~~New proteins designated Nucleotide sequences encoding a Cry2Ae protein~~ [[,]] ~~Cry2Af, and Cry2Ag~~, and variants thereof are provided[[,]] as well as ~~DNA sequences encoding these proteins or their variants~~. Further provided are recombinant hosts expressing such proteins, particularly plant cells, [[and]] plants and seeds and methods of using the recombinant hosts for controlling insects, particularly Lepidoptera.